

**MINUTES OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 210 East Senate Building, State Capitol Complex

January 31, 2014

Members Present: Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Co-Chair
Rep. Keith Grover, Co-Chair
Rep. Jon E. Stanard, House Vice Chair
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Don I. Ipson
Rep. Dana L. Layton
Rep. Kay L. McIff
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Dean Sanpei
Rep. Robert M. Spendlove
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent: Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson

Staff Present: Mr. Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Manager
Ms. Angela Oh, Economist/Statistician
Ms. Lorna Wells, Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Urquhart called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

2. USHE Institutional Presentations

a. **University of Utah** (U of U) President David W. Pershing thanked the committee for funding especially for the medical school funding. He discussed sources of revenue distribution, state appropriations, tuition, fees, and instructional costs per degree. He showed a graph of funding trends indicating that the state cost per student has been constant, but the state funding has decreased. This means that the U of U has increased efficiency. Pres. Pershing explained a funding model where money would follow students; if a program has an increase in enrollment, they would get more budget dollars. This model would concentrate on market-driven and needed programs. He discussed the vital aspects and return on investment of research projects at the U of U. They have expanded block scheduling, evening classes, and summer offerings.

They are growing their on-line education especially for classes that fill quickly. He discussed the impact of being in the PAC-12 Conference. He reported that the U of U is the best value and least expensive of all of the PAC-12 schools. Pres. Pershing explained that because most of the students at the U of U work part or full-time, it takes many students eight years to graduate. They are working to have better student advising and student engagement. He discussed the strategic scholarship initiative.

Rep. Poulson asked what the financial benefits are to the U of U for being in the PAC-12. Pres. Pershing reported that it is very financially beneficial and it also allows the U of U to recruit a higher caliber of faculty members. He indicated that the competition is much greater. Rep. Poulson asked about the progress of the dental school and how it is being funded. Pres. Pershing stated that right now they are using existing facilities. He reported that the new building is progressing and was totally privately funded. He indicated that they will not need additional funding for this program at this time.

Rep. Wheatley asked what the advisor to student ratio is at the U. Pres. Pershing answered that he didn't have the exact number, but it is definitely an area that needs additional resources. He stated that in the last five years they have increased the number of advisors and they do have mandatory advising. They do have some faculty members who also take on this role. Rep. Wheatley asked about the student debt for U of U students. Pres. Pershing replied that generally their students do borrow a little, but their debt is very low when compared to national standards. He explained that the lower tuition costs help keep student debt low.

Co- Chair Urquhart thanked Pres. Pershing for his great work. He would like more information on the student credit hours program regarding how money tracks the students.

b. **Utah State University (USU)** Pres. Stan L. Albrecht mentioned their Poinsettia Bowl victory and Coach Matt Wells being named Mountain West Conference coach of the year. He reported on the aerospace engineering program, education research funding, the National Science Foundation researchers, and the Goldwater & Truman Scholars. Pres. Albrecht discussed the USU budget including a brief history of levels of tax funding. He discussed the budget reductions from 2008 and the cost-cutting efficiencies they have incorporated. He stated that they have used recent funding allocations to improve student recruitment and retention through very proactive advising. They have also worked on retaining qualified faculty and more efficiently delivering education. They have tried to evaluate, optimize, and where necessary, discontinue programs. He stated that they have regular academic program reviews, many of which require professional accreditation. Pres. Albrecht mentioned that the campus community has come together in making decisions and providing institutional self-direction. They have also completed a comprehensive review of graduate programs.

Pres. Albrecht reported on five areas where they have tried to optimize base budgets: 1) student retention and completion, 2) delivery of educational content, 3) alignment with workforce needs, 4) creation of new partnerships with the ATCs and Salt Lake Community College, and 5) taking

the intellectual property developed by faculty to market. Pres. Albrecht thanked the committee for their financial support especially for funding the new facility primarily for Navajo students in Blanding and the new veterinary science program.

Rep. Draxler asked how they determined which programs to eliminate. Pres. Albrecht reported that it was a very integrated process involving faculty, department heads, and deans.

Rep. Poulson asked if they had any statistics showing that proactive advising is working. Pres. Albrecht said that it has been very successful. Through a recent software purchase, students are more heavily involved in tracking their own progress towards a degree and making better-informed decisions. They will probably need to have this in place for a couple of years in order for the impact to be seen.

c. Snow College Interim President Gary L. Carlston expressed appreciation for the administrative team that is helping him after only three-weeks in office. He expressed appreciation for Pres. Wyatt's great work. He reported that four entities: 1) Aspen Institute, 2) CNN Money, 3) Best Schooling and 4) Washington Monthly independently ranked Snow College in the top ten of all community colleges in the nation. He reported that they have recently undergone five challenging years, first with economic recession and then the change in age requirements for L.D.S. missionaries. Both of these had a tremendous impact on Snow College. He reported that through tremendous efforts they did not have the projected enrollment drop last fall. He reported that they have 800 deferred scholarship applications. Pres. Carlston said that they have designed a new and integrative general education model. They are looking for ways to increase student enrollment. They did not make across-the-board budget cuts but took a very measured approach which included many people. They developed a budget reduction plan which involved some program cuts and other austerity measures. He discussed their strategic planning task force and prioritization process which has been adopted by the Board of Trustees. He stated that the Richfield economic development task force has recommended that Snow look into three possible four-year degrees. Pres. Carlston thanked the committee for their support.

Co-Chair Urquhart relinquished the chair to Co-Chair Rep. Grover.

d. Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) Interim President Denece Huftalin introduced the student body president, Jessica Fowler. She reported that the SLCC's women's basketball team is currently seventh in nation and the women's volleyball team was fourth in the nation in the Scenic West Athletic Conference. She described the complexity and diversity of a very large community college. She reported that SLCC is in the top five in the number of degrees awarded and discussed graduation rates by gender. She explained the tremendous amount of budget transfers that take place in order to have SLCC be more fiscally efficient. She specifically described efficiencies in academics, student support and infrastructure. She discussed the Gen Ed step ahead program, the math emporium, and "DegreeWorks." They have worked to increase summer course offerings. She discussed recent administrative and

curriculum review measures including annual program preview. She explained the certificates of completion or proficiency that have been added. Pres. Huftalin mentioned the positive partnerships with UVU, USU and the U of U. She discussed new automated services being implemented to enhance student support. She reported on infrastructure efficiencies including the ESCO substation, the all-access virtual desktop, improved software contracts, and the rebid on their health insurance contract. She discussed the importance of new dollars flowing into SLCC in order to meet the 2020 goal.

Rep. Edwards asked about the programs available for incarcerated students. Pres. Huftalin reported that the prison program has been facilitated by the DATC for several years. SLCC works with students transitioning from incarceration into programs at SLCC.

e. Utah Valley University (UVU) President Matthew S. Holland stated that UVU's basketball team is at the top of the Western Athletic Conference. He discussed the unique mission of UVU as both a university and as a community college. He explained their open-structured enrollment and admissions process. He said that UVU now has more students at the end of the term than at the beginning. He reported that UVU is very cost effective but is in great need of the acute equity funding. He discussed the impact of budget reduction at the same time that they were granted university status and had a tremendous influx of students. The missionary age change resulted in a \$10 million budget hit. Pres. Holland explained the extensive academic program review, discontinued programs, and introduced new programs. He reported on energy saving measures, technology enhanced instruction, and using infrastructure more efficiently. He discussed completion initiatives, math preparation, the math MOOC (massive open online course), and the K-16 alliance. He stated that they have a great partnership with the MATC. They have had great success with awarding associate degrees to students who earned an associates' degree but for various reasons had not obtained them. UVU has the highest percentage of students who graduate and then remain in the state.

f. Utah State Board Regents Commissioner David L. Buhler expressed appreciation to the college presidents for their great reports. Sen. Stephenson echoed Comm. Buhler's comments regarding the presidents' presentations. He is grateful for the leadership at each institution, their vision, passion and ability to communicate in such an effective manner.

Comm. Buhler reminded the committee that this is a big responsibility for the Commissioner's Office to appoint presidents and that there are two search committees going on right now. He discussed the problem of having less state money and more students especially during 2008 and how the amount of state funding per student went down dramatically. This is important to consider when looking at the future.

Comm. Buhler gave an overview of the Board of Regents Budget Request. He stated that this budget is entirely appropriated dollars, with no tuition revenue. He reported that 86 percent of the budget is in pass-through programs, where money is appropriated to the Board of Regents but then allocated to all of the institutions. He indicated that only 3/10 of one percent of the

overall higher education budget goes to the Commissioner's Office. He discussed the efficiencies at the Commissioner's Office.

Rep. Layton expressed appreciation to USHE and to the UCAT systems for bringing unified budget requests and bringing all of the disparate parties and needs together. This is a valuable service for the committee.

5. Utah Data Alliance Presentation

Comm. Buhler introduced Spencer Jenkins, Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs. They gave an overview of the Utah Data Alliance. <http://www.utahdataalliance.org/> Comm. Buhler have a brief history of the Utah Data Alliance including the partner agencies. He explained that they received a grant that will expire soon to build this database. He gave a brief demonstration of how it might be used. He discussed some of the limitations of the data, and wanted to emphasize that this only gives a piece of the picture. He stated that the next step is to get the information out to the public.

Sen. Osmond is very excited about this data. He asked how far the data can be disaggregated. He asked specifically about the privacy components involved. Comm. Buhler replied that because of privacy issues it cannot be disaggregated to the individual student level. It can be analyzed by institution, major field, and by industry. Sen. Osmond also asked what would happen to the product if no additional funding is provided after the grant money has expired on June 30, 2014. Comm. Buhler answered that the product would continue, but it would not be as robust, it would be a scaled-down version. Sen. Osmond asked what would be lost when the money is gone. Comm. Buhler said that the servers, maintenance of the data, and one full-time employee would all be severely impacted.

Comm. Buhler demonstrated how the data can be used to identify where Utah graduates are employed from all study areas and all institutions.

Sen. Osmond commented that the institutions are only those that are part of the USHE system, he asked if this was restricted because of the grant, or could data could be gathered from BYU for example. Comm. Buhler stated that the data is only gathered from those institutions who are partners in this initiative. Mr. Jenkins stated that this would be very difficult because student records are matched with the wage information. The institutions would have to have a memorandum of understanding.

Sen. Stephenson said that the interim education task force produced a bill to combine the efforts of Utah Data Alliance and Utah Futures so that there would be one place to get the data. This would also provide a funding resource. He would like to have the program even more robust and able to provide even more ways to dissect the data. Comm. Buhler answered that this is a start, it is currently hosted by the Commissioner's Office. He would like to have this as part of Utah Futures. Sen. Stephenson reported that the Longitudinal Data Systems in other states have been

able to push this out for public use much more rapidly with more ability to slice and dice the data. Mr. Jenkins reported that Utah was in fourth round of funding, and that would be a factor why some states are ahead of Utah in this process.

Rep. Stanard asked if there is a way to get six-year graduation rates, job placement rates and wage data for these programs. Comm. Buhler stated that graduation rates could be added to the data, but job placement is much more difficult. This data is only gathered by conducting surveys of students. Mr. Jenkins answered that the unemployment insurance database at Department of Workforce Services only has industry level information and very generic. To obtain placement rates would be two different data worlds, which would be almost impossible to combine. Comm. Buhler mentioned that the privacy issues would also make this more difficult.

Rep. Layton asked if the ATC is listed as an institution but not broken down by campus. Comm. Buhler stated that the data is as a whole. The ATC's do not have the history of data available nor the resources to administer it. Ideally because of the uniqueness of the regional campuses, this data would be helpful.

Co-Chair Grover reminded committee members that the Base Budget Bill would be voted on at the next meeting, on February 3, 2014. He asked committee members to complete appropriations requests before the meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Ipson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Urquhart adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Co-Chair

Rep. Keith Grover, Co-Chair